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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Report from Eastport, Me.—Smallpox in lumber camps in New Brunswick.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Small reports, February 21, as follows:

Smallpox of a mild type has been discovered in two lumber camps at Musquash, New Brunswick.

Reports from Vanceboro, Me.—Smallpox on Canadian border—Train inspection.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Young reports, February 11 and 16, as follows:

Week ended February 9, 1907. Inspected 18 passenger trains, carrying about 850 passengers; 58 passengers vaccinated; accepted official certificates of vaccination and nonexposure to smallpox infection in the case of 46. The epidemic is reported to be widespread in Victoria County, Nova Scotia. Two cases developed February 10 in Truro, Nova Scotia, 1 of which came from Maitland.

Week ended February 16, 1907. Inspected 18 passenger trains, carrying about 900 passengers; vaccinated 60; accepted official certificates of vaccination and nonexposure to infection for 30.

An outbreak of smallpox is reported at Kennetcook, Nova Scotia, on the Dominion Atlantic Railway. Glasgow, which was considered free from the disease, has developed 17 cases. Several new cases have occurred in Truro. The situation in the other infected districts remains about the same.

Report from Philadelphia, Pa.—Enteric fever; statistics of mortality, 1862-1906—Water supply.

Surgeon Gassaway reports, February 23, as follows:

Health statistics of the city of Philadelphia, beginning with 1862, show that from that time enteric fever has been present. The percentage of cases and resultant deaths has not increased in proportion to the population, as will be seen from the following figures:

Year.	Population.	Cases.	Deaths.
1862	587,287	(a)	629
1872	725,000	(a)	369
1882	886,539	(a)	650
1892	1,092,168	(a)	440
1902	1,349,712	(a)	588
1903	1,378,624	8,701	957
1904	1,408,154	6,587	744
1905	1,438,318	6,458	684
1906	1,500,000	9,621	1,063

[a] Not ascertained.

These figures for brevity's sake are mostly taken in decades beginning with the year of the earliest available statistics, 1862; but within these named are years of apparently unusual mortality of this disease, e. g., 1863, when the great drain of troops to the civil war had begun, 485 deaths; 1865, on the return of thousands of citizen soldiers, 773; the Centennial Exposition year (1876) furnished 761 deaths; in 1899, 948 deaths were followed next year by 449.

A series of tabulated records made by the bureau of health, organized by act of the general assembly of Pennsylvania of April 8, 1903, and which commenced its present labors as a distinct organization on April 20 of that year, indicates that the disease is water-borne. The virulence of the enteric poison is shown to be in direct ratio with its concentration.

The city of Philadelphia is supplied with water for domestic use through 6 municipal reservoirs. Of these, 5 reservoirs are supplied from the Schuylkill River and 1 from the Delaware River. For convenience of investigation the health board has divided the city into 6 sanitary districts, named from the reservoirs supplying them, thus:

A. Wentz Farm, wards 23, 25, 33, 35, 41, 42, and part of 43.
B. Roxboro, wards 21, 22, and part of 43.
C. Queen Lane, wards 15, 20, 28, 29, 32, 37, 38, and part of 43.
D. East Park, wards 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 31.
E. Fairmount and Corinthian, wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 26, 30, 36, 39.
F. Belmont, wards 24, 27, 34, 40.

The Wentz Farm district is supplied with unfiltered Delaware River water. The East Park district sometimes with Schuylkill, sometimes Delaware, both unfiltered, and occasionally both at once, the mains from each of these 2 reservoirs leading into those of the other. The Roxboro district is supplied entirely with filtered Schuylkill water, which is also supplied to the greater portion of the Belmont district while the Queen Lane, Fairmount, and Corinthian mains furnish unfiltered Schuylkill water. The following table shows the effect of filtration:

1906: Actual total cases, 9,721; actual total deaths, 1,063.

District.	Estimated population.	Water furnished.	Distribution of deaths.
A. Wentz farm	190,000	Unfiltered Delaware	330
B. Roxboro	100,000	Filtered Schuylkill	33
C. Queen lane	310,000	Unfiltered Schuylkill	200
D. East Park	330,000	Unfiltered mixed Delaware and Schuylkill.	250
E. Fairmount and Corinthian	310,000	Unfiltered Schuylkill	150
F. Belmont	260,000	Unfiltered and filtered Schuylkill.	100
	1,500,000		1,063

The population and the apportionment of deaths are necessarily estimated, as the exact statistics (calendar year 1906) are in the hands of the printer and are not available. These estimates are made, however, upon a very careful dissection of the health bureau report for 1905, and after comparison with the weekly reports for 1906.

The population along the Schuylkill River above this city, beginning no farther away than the city of Reading (about 40 miles), and including Norristown, Manayunk, Roxboro, and many villages and detached homes, use this river as a common sewer for the disposal of offal and waste of every description. A dam across the river at this city affords water power for the pumps which drain from the dam the water to be stored in some of the reservoirs. From a series of close and somewhat extended observations in detail made by the chief of the bureau of health it appears that the amount of overflow at the dam is frequently, if not invariably, in inverse proportion to the deaths from enteric fever; that is to say, that the concentration of the sewage in the basin or dam, resulting from a diminution of the volume of water brought down by the river, is followed within twenty to thirty days by an increase of the number of cases reported. The Delaware River on the east side of the city opposite the Schuylkill receives the sewage from several large towns in this and the neighboring State, e. g., Bristol, Burlington, Camden, and some others, besides a large amount of sewage from the city itself. An act of the Pennsylvania assembly of April 20, 1905, requires, under penalty, that (among other diseases) enteric fever be reported promptly to the bureau of health, and immediate supervision be then given to prevent, so far as possible, communication to others. No legislation to prevent contamination of the water supply by other communities seems feasible. An extensive system of water filtration is now in process of construction at this city.

STATISTICAL REPORTS OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY, STATES AND CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES—UNTABULATED.

California—*San Diego.*—Month of January, 1907. Estimated population, 27,000. Total number of deaths, 57, including 6 from phthisis pulmonalis. Cases of contagious diseases reported: Diphtheria 1, enteric fever 1.

Connecticut—*Bridgeport.*—Month of January, 1907. Estimated population, 95,000. Total number of deaths, 152, including diphtheria 4, enteric fever 1, measles 1, and 15 from tuberculosis. Cases of contagious diseases reported: Diphtheria 23, enteric fever 3, measles 44, scarlet fever 18, whooping cough 4, and phthisis pulmonalis 3.

Iowa—*Burlington.*—Month of January, 1907. Estimated population, 25,000. Total number of deaths, 22, including 2 from tuberculosis. Three cases of scarlet fever reported.

Davenport.—Two weeks ended February 14, 1907. Estimated population, 42,000. Total number of deaths not reported. Cases of contagious diseases reported: Diphtheria 5 and scarlet fever 3.

Michigan—*Ann Arbor.*—Month of January, 1907. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 20, including 4 from tuberculosis. Cases of contagious diseases reported: Diphtheria 1, measles 2, smallpox 1, whooping cough 12, and phthisis pulmonalis 3.

Montana.—Month of January, 1907. Estimated population, 280,000. Reports to the State board of health from 27 counties show as follows: Total number of deaths, 325, including diphtheria 9, enteric fever 5, measles 2, and 26 from tuberculosis. Cases of contagious diseases were reported as follows: Diphtheria 48, enteric fever 19, measles 126, scarlet fever 16, and smallpox 3.